

January 1999



English 30

Part A: Written Response

Grade 12 Diploma Examination

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January 1999
English 30

Part A: Written Response
Grade 12 Diploma Examination

Description

Part A: Written Response contributes 50% of the total English 30 Diploma Examination mark and consists of **two** assignments.

• **Reader's Response to Literature Assignment**

<i>Suggested time</i>	<i>Value</i>
30–45 minutes	30 marks

• **Literature Composition Assignment**

<i>Suggested time</i>	<i>Value</i>
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ –2 hours	70 marks

Budget your time carefully; the suggested time for each part is only a guideline for you.

Time: 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours. This examination was developed to be completed in 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours; however, you may take an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ hour to complete the examination.

Instructions

- Read the **whole** examination carefully before you begin to write.
- You may use the following print or electronic references:
 - an English language and/or bilingual dictionary
 - a thesaurus
 - an authorized writing handbook
- Complete **both** assignments.
- Space is provided in this booklet for planning and for your written work.
- Use blue or black ink for your written work.

Additional Instructions for Students Using Word Processors

- Format your work using an easy-to-read 12-point or larger font such as Times.
- Double-space your final copy.
- Staple your final printed work to the page indicated for word-processed work for each assignment. Hand in all work.
- Indicate in the space provided on the back cover that you have attached word-processed pages.

Do not write your name anywhere in this booklet.

Feel free to make corrections and revisions directly on your written work.

Instructions

- Because the Reader's Response to Literature Assignment is thematically connected to the Literature Composition Assignment, read **both** assignments before you begin.
- Read "Arachne, Astonished" carefully and thoughtfully before you start the writing assignments.

❧ Arachne,¹ Astonished

In our porch rafters spiders spin
big webs that reach and tremble,
often with flies and sometimes moths hung in
the crosshatch of their dewy cables.

I cannot guarantee that friends will not die
or children put into practice what each learns;
but I thought that webs were a community
of architecture as unreconstructed as the fern's.

Space's amazed spider in her cage
is weightless. Fairly, one might expect her
to sulk in a daze, paw the air in arachnean rage
that good gravity monstrously should reject her.

Well, there are situations which ape²
that of weightlessness; without guide-
lines, demand that thread from the guts³ take formal shape
while the cruelly uninflected voice says, "Improvise!"⁴

O weightless, astonished Arachne, such
original alterations, situational spinning
of constructions! You frighten me very much.
Am I to understand, then, there is no end,⁵ none, to beginning?

Josephine Jacobsen

¹Arachne—(Arák'nē) in mythology, a maiden who surpassed the goddess of wisdom in a weaving contest and was transformed into a spider

²ape—imitate

³thread from the guts—literally, the silken thread produced by spinnerets in the spider's abdomen

⁴Improvise—create or perform without preparation (on the spot)

⁵there is no end—literally, spider webs are reconstructed often, sometimes each night

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

(Suggested time: approximately 30 to 45 minutes)

In the poem “Arachne, Astonished,” the poet uses a classical allusion to reflect on the implications of discovering that we must rely on our own resources.

What does the poem suggest to you about the significance of our ability to be resourceful? Support your response with reference to specific detail from the poem.

Planning

There is additional space for Planning on pages 4, 6, and 8.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

Planning

There is additional space for Planning on pages 6 and 8.

If you are using a word processor, staple your Reader's Response here.
You may make corrections directly on your printed page(s).

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

Written Work

There is additional space for Written Work on pages 7 and 9.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

Planning

There is additional space for Planning on page 8.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

Written Work

There is additional space for Written Work on page 9.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

Planning

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

Written Work

Literature Composition Assignment

(Suggested time: approximately 1½ to 2 hours)

In the course of life, individuals may find themselves in situations, or choose situations, where they must put their resourcefulness to the test. Much literature explores the effectiveness of the individual's response in critical situations.

Write an essay based on literature that you have studied in which the author examines an individual's ability to be resourceful.

What idea(s) does the author develop regarding personal resourcefulness? Support and develop your controlling idea with reference to specific detail from the literature that you choose to discuss.

Guidelines for Writing

- **Select** literature that is relevant to this assignment from the short stories, novels, plays, poetry, other literature, or films that you have studied in your high school English classes. You must focus your discussion on literature *other than* the poem provided in this examination booklet.
- **Focus** your essay on your controlling idea about personal resourcefulness. Markers will be looking for evidence that you are developing and supporting your controlling idea in response to *this* assignment.
- **Organize** your composition so that your ideas are clearly, effectively, and coherently presented.

Literature Composition Assignment

Initial Planning

You may use this space for your initial planning. No marks are awarded for work done on this page.

Author and title
of literature that
you have chosen

Your controlling idea
or thesis statement

There is additional space for Planning on even-numbered pages.

Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

If you are using a word processor, staple your Literature Composition here.
You may make corrections directly on your printed page(s).

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

There is additional space for Written Work on odd-numbered pages.

Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

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Written Work

Credit

Josephine Jacobsen. “Arachne, Astonished” from *The Chinese Insomniacs* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1981). Reprinted under the Alberta Government Print Licence with Cancopy (Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency).

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English 30: Part A

January 1999

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